

Boston,  
27. Hollis St  
Aug. 21/68

Dear friend Webb;

My daughter forwards to me from  
Leicester this morng, and I have  
just (3 p.m.) received, y<sup>r</sup>. pencil-note  
of 17<sup>th</sup> inst. from St. Mary's Hospital.  
I had, a few hours before, learned from  
Miss Estlin, that you had been upon y<sup>r</sup>.  
feet & taken a few steps. The possibility  
of this is encouraging. I am very  
glad that you keep up your spirits & courage  
as well as you do. 'Tis indeed a sad  
reverse of your plans & hopes, and an  
equally unwelcome disappointment to us.  
I think now you must decide to spend  
the winter in this Country, - see us in  
winter, - take our homes & firesides in a  
quiet way, & so recruit y<sup>r</sup>. strength, - & be  
able to start forth again next Spring, &  
complete what you must now leave undone.

I think your letters, for your own sake, ought to be brief & not numerous. One will  
pass from hand to hand, until you are able to sit up, & write again easily.



I think you are very right in determining that I should come to your aid, when you come to leave Detroit. It ought to be done, and I shall gladly do it. You will apprise me a little beforehand of your probable time of moving, and I shall endeavour not to keep you waiting much. I feel that you ought to have some one constantly at hand on your side. I am very glad that you found such kind attention & brotherly sympathy from your fellow passengers, Suydam, Norton, & others, - and equally disgusted that the Captain & other officers of the boat showed you nothing of the sort. You have their names, &c. I trust.

My good Mother recently had a fall, which she believes to be a good deal like yours in its effects, though yours has proved to much more serious. She was descending the stairs, - at my sister's house, - supposed she had



reached the hall-floor, but had not,  
tho' on the last stair, - stepping from  
which, as if it were the even floor,  
she fell very heavily. Nothing was  
fractured, but she was severely bruised  
internally, or jarred, - & lamed all thro'  
the spine, so that she couldn't turn her  
head without pain. This happened on the  
26<sup>th</sup> July, - y<sup>r</sup>. accident was the 27<sup>th</sup>. She  
was confined to her bed about 2 weeks,  
- for more than a week past has been able  
to sit up most of the day, & to walk about  
a little, with some help. Her age, over 80,  
was of course against her; but we feel  
she <sup>has</sup> gotten over it wonderfully well. -  
I feel sure your best way is to tax y<sup>r</sup>.  
strength & ability to move only a very  
little at present; - a very little may be  
beneficial; then I hope y<sup>r</sup>. recovery, when  
it really begins, will be rapid. Whenever  
I may go to you, - I shall probably make  
a rapid & continuous journey, - via. Suspension  
Bridge



and probably reach Detroit in 30 hours from leaving Leicester. You will please

consider me at Leicester, when you write.

I am here only for a day or two.

I have seen Garrison & Miss Estlin today. Tomorrow they go to Providence & Newport, R.I. - return here mid. of next week. & on Thursday

(27<sup>th</sup>) Miss E. is to go to see Mrs. Pillsbury at Concord N.H. From there she will <sup>- at Leicester -</sup> probably, come again to us; & we hope, make our house her head-quarters until

she goes to New York in October, where, early in the month, she desires to attend the session of the Unitarian Conference. I hope it may be so that we shall have you under our roof at same time; - and Deborah too, either then or at any more convenient time. — My wife is now in the vicinity, making a few days' visit among some friends.

She w<sup>d</sup> send her love & sympathy, I know, - as we all do. We rejoice that you have fallen amongst such good friends in Detroit.

I hope I haven't tired you.

Ever & truly yours,

Saml May Jr

papers from friends to name, until you are able to get up. & write again easily.